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## California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates

Board Meeting MINUTES  
1 – 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
Held via Zoom

### 1. Call to Order

#### a) Introductions and Roll Call

<b>Present</b>	<b>Member/Title</b>	<b>County</b>
x	Richard Krzyzanowski / President	Los Angeles Area
	Vice President (vacant)	
x	Lisa Long / Treasurer	Placer
	Imari S Nuyen-Kariotis / Secretary	Imperial
x	Christina S. Kraushar / Central Region	Merced
x	Whitney Wilcox / South Region	San Diego
	Wendy Cheula / Far North Region	Siskiyou
	BAYPAC (vacant)	
x	Mike Phillips / At Large	San Diego
x	Jim Raphael / Emeritus	Santa Clara
x	Jude Stern – COPR / At Large	Sacramento Area
	Samuel Jain – DRC / IAO General Member	Sacramento Area

Guests: Tina Coates, Ventura County PRA  
Daniel Wagoner, COPR

Quorum met, guests introduced

## 2. President's Report

- a) This is CAMHPRA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- b) Richard is working on getting more PRAs involved, Board positions filled
- c) PRAT
  - i) Luncheon committee met and is working on the speaker, awards, themes, etc.
  - ii) Richard will present a CAMHPRA Annual Report at PRAT
  - iii) Richard sent a letter to the Behavioral Health Directors Association request a platform to present CAMHPRA
  - iv) Stephanie Welch, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health for HHS, requested a "listening session" with CAMHPRA to better understand the PRA's role. Mike and Richard will work with them to arrange it. Richard will create an agenda with input from the Board. Mike suggested the session focus on what can be done to make the advocacy experience better for clients/family/peers. Other topics to cover included dissemination of Patients' Rights Handbooks, adding boxes on the state's 5150 form for MH, SUD, and SUS/SD to reflect SB 43 data collecting requirements, and the new 30-day time frame for resolution of Medi-Cal client grievances.
- d) Board positions that need to be filled include Vice President, BAYPAC Representative, and Treasurer (since Lisa is retiring this spring). We should think about getting a Treasurer onboard before PRAT if possible so Lisa can train them before retiring.

## 3. Housekeeping

- a) **Treasurer's Report:** Lisa reports beginning balance of \$7763. No income or expenses this period. Ending balance of \$7763.
  - i) Chris moved to approve, Jim seconded, no further discussion, motion carried.
- b) **Approval of Minutes** – There were no change or corrections. Chris moved to approve, Richrd seconded, no further discussion, motion carried.

## 4. Coalition Reports

- a) **Far North:** Wendy unable to attend meeting due to snowstorm in her county.
- b) **BAYBAC** – No report, no representative.
- c) **Central:** Christina Kraushar (Merced) – No a lot of news. Sacramento County Sheriff announced they will no longer respond to mental health calls if there was no crime involved. Calls would be referred to MCT or the national mental health hotline. Discussion of issue took place.
- d) **South:** Whitney Wilson (San Diego) – She held a regional meeting in December and 26 people attended, including Richard.
  - i) The Medi-Cal grievance resolution time period reduction to 30 days was discussed; getting medical records necessary to investigate within 30 days is a challenge.
  - ii) Los Angeles County is concerned about the ratio of Hearing Officers to PRAs in their county.
  - iii) Implementation of AB 2275 took place recently in some south counties and some problems have been encountered. The number of hearings seems to decrease over time.
  - iv) CARE Act started 12/1/2024, related grievances were requested
  - v) SB 43 planning is taking place and PRAs are generally included, especially in training aspects. San Diego has experienced some substance use related holds, but very few. It may be trending up.

5. **Legislation Committee:** Richard/Jim

**CAMHPRA Priority Bills:**

**2025-26 Legislation**

**AB 73 (Jackson)**

Introduced 12/12/2024

Status: Pending referral. No hearing scheduled as of 2/4/2025.

Proposes to add WIC sections 18998.15 and 18998.35. Would require Health and Welfare Agency, Department of Health Care Access and Information to develop criteria for a specialty certificate program and specialized training requirement for a Black Mental Health Certification. It would require the department to collect and data on those who complete the training.

**AB 81 (Ta)**

Introduced 12/19/2024

Status: Pending referral. No hearing scheduled as of 2/4/2025.

Proposes to add section 716 to the Military and Veterans Code. Would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to establish a program to fund an academic study of mental health among women veterans in California and submit a report that summarized the findings and recommendations no later than 6/30/2029.

**AB 225 (Bonta)**

Introduced 1/9/2025

Status: Pending referral. No hearing scheduled as of 2/4/2025.

Proposes to amend WIS section 4125. Current law authorizes funds held in patient trust in state hospitals to be spend on education and entertainment of patients. This bill would additionally authorize funds to be expended for the welfare of patients in institutions. Would require the hospital administrator to notify patients, patient governments, and patient groups in writing about any new expenditure options for the benefit funds.

**AB 278 (Ransom)**

Introduced 1/21/2025

Status: Pending referral. No hearing scheduled as of 2/4/2025.

Proposes to amend Health and Safety Code 127501.11.

**Existing law** establishes the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) within the Department of Health Care Access and Information (DHCAI). The law also establishes the Health Care Affordability Board (HCAB) to establish a statewide health care cost target and authorized OCHA to establish advisory and technical committees.

**This bill** would require HCAB, on or before 6/1/2026, to establish a Patient Advocate Advisory Standing Committee (PAASC) that would be (1) composed fo two members each from patient advocacy organizations for chronic conditions, rare diseases, terminal illnesses, and mental and behavioral conditions; (2) meet four times a year to receive public comments; (3) annually report to the HCBA obstacles to accessing quality health care and recommendations for improving heath care in the area of concern; (4) include recommendations in an annual written report.

**Bill proposed by the CA American College of Emergency Physicians for improving parity and reducing delays for behavioral health patients in the emergency department.**

Bill has not yet been introduced.

The proposed language would allow for the designation of ER MDs to write 5150 holds after successfully completing the county LPS designation training program.

**The legislative committee also suggests monitoring the following bills for implementation:**

**AB 2154 (Berman, passed 2024)**

Provides distribution of state Patients' Rights handbook to patients detained in Emergency Rooms at the same time handbooks are provided to a family member.

**AB 1154 (Eggman, passed 2024)**

Provides for an existing capacity decision to remain in effect until a new capacity hearing is convened and a new decision made. Requires facilities to report instances of these orders to the county Behavioral Health Department.

**6. Reports from Meetings/Other Advocacy Organizations**

- a) CCBH (California Coalition for Behavioral Health): Richard reporting. In response to Richard's request, CAMHPRA will have a slot in the agenda in either March or June to make organization aware of who we are and what we do.
- b) COPR (California Office of Patients' Rights): Daniel reporting. COPR is working to set dates for PRAT. Tentatively it will be held Mar 14-16, pending approval by the Department of State Hospitals who have offered the use of their building at a substantially reduced rate from what it cost to have PRAT at the Holiday Inn. There are a lot of other logistical changes being made, so final announcements will occur when those are finalized. Presenters and sessions are being planned. Daniel also said that the PRA training manual changes will be finalized soon. Improvements to the website will begin soon as well.
- c) DRC (Disability Rights California): Samuel absent. Daniel said he know a lot of conversations are taking place related to the federal funding changes implemented by President Trump's administration.
- d) CBHPC (California Behavioral Health Planning Council): Mike reporting. Daphne has been pushing forward actions related to patients' rights advocacy. A recommendation from a recent study will be released soon that may recommend a study on PRA staffing ratios (and perhaps codifying of those ratios).

**7. Public Policy**

- a) Care Court Implementation – no discussion at this time

## **8. Other Business**

- a) Maintaining Facebook page: Richard. Richard has taken over administration of the page. Discussion took place about enhancing our features, or about changing to Blue Sky or SLACK. Richard will investigate and report back. A request was made for a link to our CAMHPRA webpage on the Facebook page. Richard will do that.
- b) General disclaimer for articles posted on the website. Request was made that “mental health” be added before “patients’ rights” in the disclaimer. Richard will add it.
- c) Open floor for additional topics. PRAT themes were discussed; Jude suggested noting the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the theme.
- d) Richard again noted urgency to fill board positions.

## **9. Next Meeting; Adjourn**

- a) Next meeting will be held at PRAT.
- b) Meeting ended by Richard Krzyzanowski